



PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION
U.S. Embassy
Tripoli · Libya



Suggested Remarks
U.S. National Day Celebration
July 4, 2010

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the U.S. Embassy, thank you for joining us to celebrate the two hundred and thirty-fourth anniversary of the United States of America. It is a pleasure to have you all here tonight to celebrate with us.

In recent years and right up to the present moment, the United States has faced unprecedented challenges which have tested our institutions, the resiliency of our democracy, and raised questions about our ability to continue to bear the many burdens we have accepted. These challenges have included two wars, natural disasters, financial crises, the increasing polarization of our political discourse, and now oil spills. However, despite the differences of a nation of 300 million people made up of every language and nationality on earth, we have always faced these challenges as a single united nation.

The fact that we are here tonight celebrating 234 years of our republic suggests that it's the optimistic spirit of the American people and the strength of our vibrant national democracy that has empowered us to overcome massive obstacles over the past two centuries. I can assure you that we will continue to carry out our tasks with the same spirit and will that has characterized our history.

Over the last year, President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton have set a broad vision for our engagement overseas with the mission of sharing American optimism with our friends around the world.



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Last summer in his historic speech at Cairo University, President Obama called for a new beginning and sustained collaboration with Muslim communities in the area of education, entrepreneurship, science, culture, and technology. Tonight we also celebrate a second year of success with Libya as we continue on the path to normalization of relations. This year over 6000 Libyans visited our country. We have also witnessed progress in our political and economic relations. We look forward to continue to build a framework based on mutual interests with Libya that should set the course for the years to come.

I'd like to thank our very generous sponsors who made this evening possible. It's a great pleasure to see such an active American business presence in Libya – truly a remarkable indication of the enormous improvements in the relationship between our two countries. Thank you all.

In closing, I ask you to please join me in honoring our two nations through the playing of the Libyan and American national anthems. We are very lucky to have a visiting band from the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet with us tonight. The band will continue playing throughout the evening and we will wrap up the program with a medley of patriotic songs performed by Erin Cederlind.

Thank you all again for coming and on behalf of the U.S. Embassy we hope that you thoroughly enjoy this 4th of July celebration.